

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER,  
SECRETARY OF STATE, FOLLOWING HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
CHURCH SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 21, 1975



Secretary Kissinger: The Committee and I reviewed the general problem of the control of covert operations, their purpose and their relationship to national policy. There was some discussion of individual instances as they related to the general topic. But the primary concern of this hearing was to deal with the relationship of covert operations to national policy, and the relationship between Executive conduct and legislative oversight. I must say the Committee, as on my previous discussions, conducted the meeting in a very fair and very constructive atmosphere.

Question: Mr. Secretary, would you want to reconsider what you previously said about your connection with operations in Chile as a result of what appears in yesterday's report of the Senate Committee?

Secretary Kissinger: I have testified at great length before the Committee, and they have the full record of these operations, and I don't think it is appropriate for me to go into any more public discussion.

Question: What kind of ideas do you have to prevent some of the really wild things that were revealed in that report? What can be done, legislatively or otherwise?

Secretary Kissinger: Well, I think there can be a tighter control within the Executive branch. I think the -- I strongly favor the idea of a legislative oversight committee, and there should be a much closer relationship between such an oversight committee and the Executive branch as it develops covert operations.

Question: Do think you can really stop that sort of stuff in the future? Make sure it just doesn't happen anymore?

Secretary Kissinger: I'm positive it can be stopped.

Question: What have you advised President Ford to do about tightening up the covert operations?

Secretary Kissinger: Well, I don't think it's appropriate for me to discuss publicly whatever it was I may have given to President Ford. But we have not yet developed a formal

proposal for President Ford. This will have to be done on an inter-agency basis. But I believe that the Committee and the Executive Branch can work out a mutually acceptable arrangement.

Question: Should covert operations be taken out of the CIA?

Secretary Kissinger: I would think not.

Question: Mr. Secretary, there will be public hearings on covert operations. Can it be assumed you'll testify in public?

Secretary Kissinger: No, I do not believe that it's appropriate for the Secretary of State to testify in public about covert operations.

Question: In any form, even --

Secretary Kissinger: Well, I have testified now twice before the committee at great length and in detail about covert operations that I'm familiar with and the general philosophy of them. I have agreed to return another time when the Committee has crystalized its legislative proposals to give the Committee my views about them. So, they will have a rather full record of my views.

Question: Can I raise what appears to be one specific contradiction that arises from yesterday's report: the position both you and former President Nixon have generally taken with regard to Chile, was that there was no involvement and no thought of a support or instigation of a military coup. The record as it comes out now appears to put that in a different light. Were you supporting a military coup?

Secretary Kissinger: We have stated repeatedly that the military coup in 1973 was in no way supported by the United States. We had no contact with any of the people that carried out the military coup. And therefore, the coup that overthrew Allende was done without contact with the United States.

Question: Mr. Secretary, what about 1970? That was the issue in the report, not 1973.

Secretary Kissinger: The report is another matter.

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